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LRSC

Local Roads & Streets Council
Advisory to the Wisconsin Secretary of Transportation

Welcome New Council Member



The council welcomes **Terry McMahon** representing the Wisconsin Towns Association (WTA). Terry replaces Marv Samson who left the council in

December. Terry is a Supervisor from the Town of Yorkville in Racine County. Terry will represent WTA on both the Executive and Local Transportation Finance Committees. ▲



Frank Busalacchi, Secretary, Wisconsin Department of Transportation



Paula Vandehey, Council Chair, Director of Public Works, City of Appleton

Message from WisDOT Secretary Frank Busalacchi

As we begin a new year, I see a transportation future that holds many exciting opportunities. At the same time, we face daunting challenges that will require the collective focus of all transportation stakeholders including our key partners such as the Local Roads and Streets Council (LRSC). That, in a nutshell, is the message I delivered during a recent meeting in Madison with LRSC leadership. Myself, along with Executive Assistant Chris Klein (who also serves as LRSC Liaison), enjoyed getting an update on council activities and the opportunity to discuss long-range issues and concerns. These topics include: adequately funding highway maintenance; policies regarding over weight trucks; meeting growing needs during a period of declining revenues; and the successful rollout of the Wisconsin Information System for Local Roads—a first-of-its-kind

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Message from LRSC Chair Paula Vandehey

As the new Chair of the Local Roads and Street Council (LRSC), I would like to introduce myself. I am an Engineering graduate from UW-Madison and have been the Director of Public Works for the City of Appleton for the past six years. Prior to coming to Appleton, I worked for the City of Milwaukee and a transportation consulting firm in Pasadena, California. I have been on the LRSC for three years and I am very excited for the opportunity to Chair this Council.

The Executive Committee recently met with Secretary Busalacchi to discuss Council priorities for 2006. I was very impressed with his ongoing commitment and support for the Council's goal to improve and maintain the quality of Wisconsin's local roads and streets.

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Main Street Streetscaping Transportation Enhancement project in Racine



LRSC January 19th meeting with Secretary Frank Busalacchi, Executive Assistant Christopher Klein, Executive Committee members of the LRSC, and WisDOT staff

Brighter pavement markings, larger and brighter signs may soon appear in a community near you!

Last fall, local units of government throughout Wisconsin were notified of the opportunity to apply for state funds under the Traffic Signing and Marking Enhancement Grants Program (TSMEGP). This program is intended to enhance the visibility of traffic signs and roadway markings on Wisconsin's local road system in an effort to assist older drivers and pedestrians. For the 2005–2006 TSMEGP cycle, \$3.8 million dollars is available to local governments statewide for these types of enhancements.

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) has received a total of 201 applications, totaling \$9.4 million in project requests for the current cycle—a 66% increase in applications and a 54% increase in project requests from the 2004 program cycle. Projects are capped at 75% of project costs at the time of application, and local units of government are responsible for the remainder. Communities complete the project, and are reimbursed upon completion.

A WisDOT selection committee made up of a statewide, interdisciplinary team of department representatives will meet during late February to carefully review each application. The committee will forward a list of recommended projects to the Secretary for approval in March and the department will announce the approved projects as soon as they are selected.

If you have any questions, contact Michael Erickson, Program Manager at (608) 266-0194 or by e-mail at michael.erickson@dot.state.wi.us ▲

Secretary's Message

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initiative that provides a solid foundation to address many of the issues I just outlined.

Looking into 2006 and beyond, my message to the LRSC is this: we greatly value the strong partnership between our department and the council; we can and must continue to work together to find common ground on common issues; and despite the reorganization that has impacted our department and all state agencies, WisDOT remains fully committed to meeting our varied commitments and further strengthening its relationship with the LRSC.

As an optimist, past experience has taught me that there is no issue so large that people willing to compromise through thoughtful dialogue cannot solve it. But I am also a realist, and we must not underestimate the formidable challenges ahead. Much of our transportation infrastructure is aging. As the demands on this aging system continue to grow, revenues are shrinking. Meeting these growing demands within the climate of shrinking revenues is the greatest challenge we face. Working together, from town halls, to city council chambers, to our state and national capitols, we must reinforce the message that quality streets, highways and other transportation facilities serve as the foundation that supports economic development and public safety.

I was recently appointed to a 12-member National Surface Transportation Policy and Revenue Study Commission that will address how to meet and fund our country's long-term transportation needs.

Your thoughts and suggestions are most welcome as we focus attention on this important state and national debate. While the future holds many questions, there is one thing of which I'm certain: re-focusing the debate on the needs and merits of a quality transportation system will be much easier thanks to the help we receive from our many valued partners—such as the LRSC. ▲

Frank J. Busalacchi
Secretary

Council Chair's message

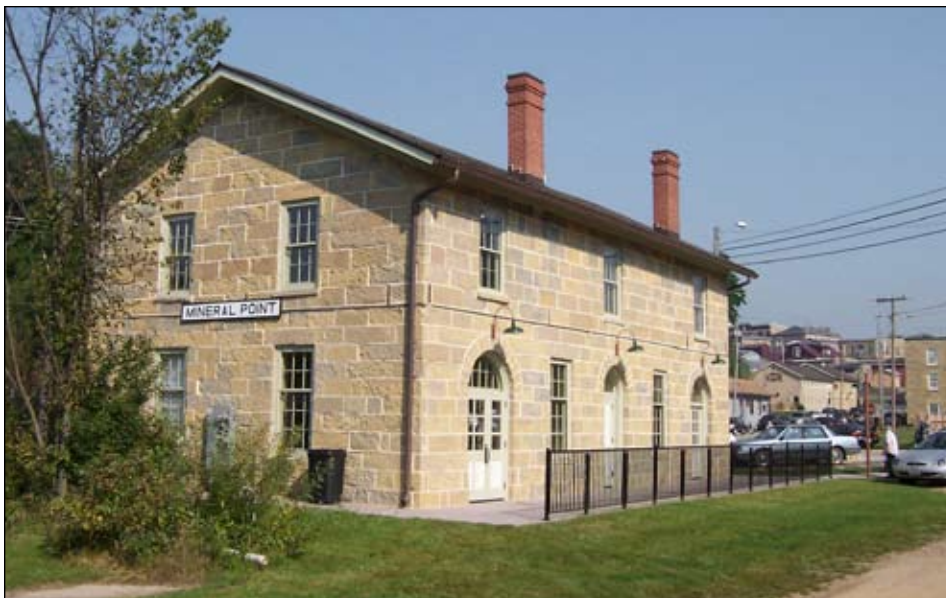
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One of our major focus areas of 2006 will be the continued rollout of the Wisconsin Information System for Local Roads (WISLR). This single platform for local road data and pavement analysis will also provide a multi-year budget-planning tool. The Council is committed to establishing sound policies for use of WISLR data over the coming year and to share these with local governments and other transportation stakeholders.

Other areas of focus include advising WisDOT on development of the local roads element of their long-range transportation multi-modal plan Connections 2030, working on a Pavement Analysis Incentive Program, implementing a single point of contact with DNR for local road projects, addressing over-size trucking impacts on the local road system, and continuing to educate the public and legislature about the use of General Transportation Aids (GTA).

The Council will also be developing the 2004–2006 Biennial Report. This report highlights the work accomplishments of the Council and its committees over the past two years. I encourage you to visit the LRSC Web Site at: www.dot.wisconsin.gov/localgov/lrsc to learn more about the LRSC and its activities.

2006 should be another exciting and productive year for the LRSC. Please continue your support and interest in Wisconsin's local roads system. If you have any questions or ideas for the Council, please feel free to contact me at (920)832-6474 or by e-mail at: paula.vandehy@appleton.org ▲



Mineral Point Depot Rehabilitation Project

WisDOT announces 2006 Transportation Enhancements Program

In 2006, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) is again requesting project applications under the Statewide Multi-modal Improvement Program (SMIP) for constructing bicycle and pedestrian facilities, restoring historic transportation structures, streetscaping, landscaping and other eligible projects.

Transportation Enhancements (TE) is the only program with available funding. Funding for the STP-D program was again eliminated in the 2005–2007 state budget. The result will be less funding available for project awards in 2006. The major category that will be affected will be bicycle and pedestrian projects that were eligible under both programs and typically made-up about two-thirds to three quarters of project funding requests in past years. *In the absence of STP-D funding, the department will not be able to accept applications that are solely to plan for bicycle and pedestrian facilities or transit capital requests because these were only eligible under the STP-D program.*

The twelve eligible categories of Enhancements projects are:

- » Provision of facilities for pedestrians/bicycles;
- » Provision of safety and educational activities for pedestrians and bicyclists

- » Preservation of abandoned railway corridors (including the conversion and use thereof for pedestrian or bicycle trails);
- » Historic preservation;
- » Rehabilitation/operation of historic transportation buildings (including historic railroad facilities and canals);
- » Establishment of transportation museums;
- » Acquisition of scenic easements and scenic or historic sites;
- » Scenic or historic highway programs (including the provision of tourist and welcome center facilities);
- » Landscaping and other scenic beautification;
- » Control and removal of outdoor advertising;
- » Environmental mitigation of water pollution due to highway run-off or reduce vehicle-caused wildlife mortality while maintaining habitat connectivity; and
- » Archeological planning and research

Information on the program and applications were mailed to all local units of government statewide in early January. Applications are now available from WisDOT District and Central offices. The due date for applications is **Friday, April 14, 2006**. Projects will compete on a statewide basis. A committee consisting of state agency officials, state legislators and citizens are expected to meet in June to make project recommendations that will be announced by early

fall of 2006. Projects are funded with 80% federal funds and 20% local, with the federal funds capped at the amount originally requested. Federal Highway Administration requirements apply to the projects as described in the *Local Sponsor's Guide* that are available from WisDOT offices.

WisDOT will only have about \$12.5 million in federal funds to distribute in CY 2006 for FYs 2007–2009, with most of the funds scheduled in FYs 2008 and 2009. Based on past demand, the department may only be able to fund 20–25% of the applications received. Reauthorization of the federal transportation budget in 2005 did not result in any major changes to the program.

For more detailed information on the program, contact John Duffe in WisDOT's Central Office at (608) 264-8723 or by e-mail at john.duffe@dot.state.wi.us. You can also visit the WisDOT Web site for general information on the program at <http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/localgov/aid/te.htm> ▲



Soo Line "S" Bicycle and Pedestrian Bridge project in Eau Claire

Online WISLR Pavement Rating Submittal Pilot a Success

In 2005, WisDOT conducted a pilot with local clerks to assess the usability of WEB-WISLR to satisfy local requirements. The group focused on the annual submittal of physical roadway changes and the biennial submittal of pavement ratings using menu options available via WISLR.

Meeting at a central location at Athens High School, six local municipalities went through the WISLR training CD in order to gain WISLR update access to submit physical roadway changes online, i.e., surface type, shoulder width, etc. In another session, locals used the WEB-WISLR Pavement Rating Entry Quick Guide tri-fold to submit their 2005 pavement ratings in the new WISLR online submittal option "Pavement Rating Entry Screen."

Participating in the pilot were officials from the Town of Johnson, Village of Athens, Town of Bern, Town of Rietbrock, Town of Frankfort and Town of McMillan. Clerks from these municipalities provided valuable feedback to WisDOT regarding what was 'easy to use' and 'where improvements could be made.'

Of the approximately 1,600 pavement rating submittals received to date, 49% of these submittals were received from locals using the WISLR Pavement Rating Entry screen.

For those locals who have not yet submitted their 2005 Pavement Ratings to WisDOT, expect to receive a reminder letter.

Contact Crystal Van Woelderren with pavement rating questions at (608) 266-7135 or e-mail [Crystal.Van.Woelderren](mailto:Crystal.Van.Woelderren@dot.state.wi.us). ▲



Wisconsin's first National Scenic Byway—the Great River Road (WIS 35)

Municipalities/Groups Can Now Nominate Potential Scenic Byways

Local governments, groups and citizens can now nominate a state highway corridor as a Wisconsin scenic byway. Initiated by state legislation and administered through the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT), the new Scenic Byways program allows communities to nominate a numbered state or federal (non-interstate) highway segment 30 miles long or longer that possesses outstanding scenic and/or historical attributes. "A scenic byway should provide travelers an enjoyable visual, educational and recreational experience and is another tool communities can use to encourage tourism and economic development," said WisDOT Secretary Frank Busalacchi.

Candidate byways must be locally nominated and supported—a grassroots approach that ensures a strong local commitment to the promotion and long-term preservation of a highway corridor. Interested applicants are encouraged to form a local byway group including area business officials, community leaders and others that can oversee the application process and possibly serve a long-term function to manage a designated byway's ongoing activities.

A state Scenic Byways Advisory Committee will review applications and make recommendations about whether applicants should prepare a more detailed Corridor Management Plan that outlines

a byway's long-term goals. The WisDOT Secretary will make the final determination on a highway corridor's selection as a scenic byway. Designated byways will be marked with unique signage, and will be featured on the WisDOT Web site. Approved state scenic byways may seek National Scenic Byway or All-American Road status that can help promote the route to a national audience. State or national scenic byways are eligible to compete for federal discretionary funds.

Scenic byways differ from rustic roads in that byways involve numbered state or federal (non-interstate) highway segments that are 30 miles long or longer. Rustic roads are typically shorter, lightly traveled town or county roadways that can be paved or unpaved. Both scenic byways and rustic roads remain under local government jurisdiction.

Wisconsin is already home to one National Scenic Byway—the Great River Road (WIS 35)—that follows the Mississippi River on the state's western border. More information on the new state Scenic Byways program including a *Citizens Handbook* and application materials can be found on the WisDOT Web site at: <http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/travel/scenic/byways.htm>. The application process has been designed to encourage a variety of groups to apply, but also establishes criteria to help ensure a designated byway will provide visitors a positive overall travel experience. For additional information, contact Jane Carrola, WisDOT Scenic Byways Coordinator at (608) 266-0649 or via e-mail at jane.carrola@dot.state.wi.us. ▲



Calendar of events

Below are meetings and training events related to the local road network in Wisconsin. Please submit events for inclusion in future LRSC newsletters to lisc@dot.state.wi.us

Local Roads and Streets Council meetings are held throughout the year in the city council chambers in Wisconsin Rapids beginning at 9 a.m. The 2006 schedule includes meetings on March 23rd, June 22nd, September 28th, and December 7th. Interested people are invited to attend council meetings. Various LRSC Committee meetings are also typically held every other month in various locations around the state. Please contact WisDOT's Kathryn Dustin at kathryn.dustin@dot.state.wi.us or (608) 267-0448 to confirm meeting dates and times.

Questions

Please e-mail the council with your questions at lisc@dot.state.wi.us or contact: Paula Vandehey, Council Chair, (920) 832-6467, paula.vandehey@appleton.org or Mary Forlenza, WisDOT Staff Chair, (608) 264-8724, mary.forlenza@dot.state.wi.us

Electronic newsletter

The Local Roads and Streets Council newsletter is available exclusively in an electronic format. The newsletter is sent via e-mail to the addresses we have on file in our newsletter distribution list. The newsletter is also available on the WisDOT Web site at <http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/localgov/lisc/newsletters.htm>. Copies of previous newsletters are also available on the Internet at the same address. To add or change e-mail addresses in the newsletter distribution list, please contact the LRSC via e-mail at lisc@dot.state.wi.us, or contact WisDOT's Kathryn Dustin at kathryn.dustin@dot.state.wi.us or (608)267-0448.

Visit our Web site!

The council web site was recently updated and includes membership lists, committee information, meeting schedules, meeting minutes, reports and much more. Please visit the site at <http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/localgov/lisc/index.htm>

Wisconsin Transportation Information Center (UW – TIC) Calendar

Local government officials may request a partial scholarship for selected UW-Madison Department of Engineering Professional Development short courses. The number of scholarships available is limited. Eligible courses are listed in the Calendar section of the quarterly *Crossroads* newsletter.

Future workshops available:

Highway Safety

Fee: \$45

This workshop is your opportunity to learn practical ways to meet your responsibility for safer local roads and streets.

Date	Location
February 27	Tomah
February 28	Eau Claire
March 1	Cable
March 2	Rhineland
March 3	DePere
March 6	Milwaukee (Brookfield)
March 7	Barneveld

Road Maintenance

Fee: \$45

You will learn to recognize problems early and apply the right method at the right time to stretch your budget and maintain good roads.

Date	Location
March 27	Tomah
March 28	Eau Claire
March 29	Hayward
March 30	Rhineland
March 31	DePere
April 3	Barneveld
April 4	Waukesha

Workshop information can be obtained by calling (800)462-0876 or (608)262-2061, or at <http://tic.engr.wisc.edu/workshops/listing.lasso> for more information.